

6 batt, and cutting or otherwise shaping the needlefelt to form a blank adapted at
7 least partially to cover a ball.

1 18. (Amended) A felt-covered ball, characterised in that the ball
2 is covered by a needlefelt, said needlefelt comprising an entanglement of fibres
3 formed by the needlefelting of a fibre batt passed through a needlefelting
4 machine having at least one needleboard providing barbed needles to penetrate
5 the surface of said batt in a range of angles including a plurality of angles which
6 are non-perpendicular with respect to the surface of the batt, and wherein said
7 needlefelt is cut or otherwise shaped to form a blank adapted at least partially to
8 cover a ball.

Please cancel claims 1-13 and 22-25.

REMARKS

Claims 14-19 remaining in the case were not elected and were withdrawn from consideration in the Office Actions of April 11, 2001 and September 20, 2001.

Accordingly, a first substantive non-final action on claims 14-19 is respectively requested.

Applicant encloses herewith a Declaration (under 37 CFR 1.132) signed by the inventor. In this Declaration, the inventor describes and comments on a comparative experiment which had been carried out by professional tennis players to compare the playing qualities and performance of balls made